



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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***GOVERNOR RECOGNIZES TWO EAST VALLEY BUSINESSES
FOR INNOVATION IN MEDICAL TECHNOLOGIES
Tempe Firms Receive Innovation Awards***

PHOENIX – Governor Janet Napolitano today presented *Arizona Innovation Awards* to two Tempe businesses – Kinetic Muscles, Inc. and Cranial Technologies – for their innovative medical devices that are promoting Arizona in the global economy.

“Arizona’s economic future will be determined by our ability to innovate – to create the new and better technologies the world demands,” Governor Napolitano said. “I’m pleased to recognize two firms that are the essence of that innovative spirit. The entrepreneurs at Kinetic Muscles and Cranial Technologies have taken creative ideas, worked hard, and made groundbreaking products that change lives.”

Kinetic Muscles, Inc. (KMI) is owned by a father-and-son engineering team, James and Ed Koeneman, who created a therapeutic device that enables survivors of mild to moderate strokes to regain muscle control in their hands. Utilizing relatively new research that indicates the brain is capable of finding new pathways to limbs when a stroke causes damage, the pair established the company in 2001.

The Koenemans invented “The Hand Mentor,” a machine that allows patients to work the affected hand using repetitive exercises. The device, made on-site in Tempe, utilizes a computer program that enables physical therapists and physicians to monitor patients’ progress, and is equipped with simple visual games to keep patients engaged in the exercises. KMI’s product is now on the market, and the company is working on several other machines, including one that exercises an entire arm and another that works the leg. (www.kineticmuscles.com)

Cranial Technologies was founded in 1986 by Jeanne Pomatto-Hertz, an orthotist who took an interest in creating a noninvasive device to help mold the heads of babies with plagiocephaly (abnormal head shape). Hertz created the DOC Band, which is now used at clinics nationwide and in Europe. Once handmade by Hertz herself, each custom-fitted DOC Band is now made by a specially trained staff in Tempe. (www.cranialtech.com)

It was at one time believed that plagiocephaly was simply cosmetic; however, research has found that abnormal head shapes can cause other problems later in life, such as temporomandibular joint (jaw joint) chewing difficulties and headaches. Additionally, a misshapen head can make it difficult to find properly fitted protective headgear, such as bicycle or motorcycle helmets.

“The fact that these companies are owned and operated by the very people who invented these groundbreaking medical devices, and that the products are manufactured right on the premises, is impressive,” Governor Napolitano said. “They showcase the level of innovation and talent we have here in our own backyard.”

The *Arizona Innovation Awards* are part of Governor Napolitano’s effort to promote innovation, math, science and technology in our state. The public is welcome and encouraged to submit nominations for awards online at www.azcommerce.com.

For more information about the Office of the Governor, please visit www.azgovernor.gov.